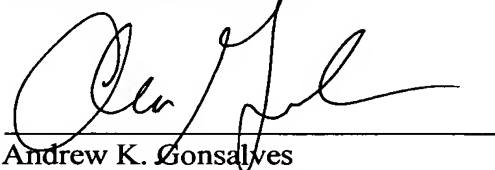


**Remarks**

This preliminary amendment amends claims 11, 15, 17, 18, 45, 47, 49-53, 60, and 61 (either to remove multiple dependencies or to address minor informalities). No new matter has been entered by way of these amendments. Applicants hereby request entry into the National stage and examination of the above-identified application.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the above-identified application, the Office is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew K. Gonsalves', written over a horizontal line.

Andrew K. Gonsalves  
Registration No. 48,145

Date: December 6, 2004

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051  
Rochester, New York 14603-1051  
Telephone: (585) 263-1658  
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600